later be transmitted to a server configured for compiling ratings data from various users. Using any known automated collaborative filtering method, the server may provide recommendations to this and other users based on the compiled ratings data. For example, the server may recommend an item, e.g., a book or a music compact disc, based on the ratings of the item by users with similar preferences.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1, and 6 as follows:

1.   (Amended) A portable rating apparatus, comprising:

a user-manipulable control dedicated for generating a signal indicating a user-supplied rating of a currently played media content in response to a user-supplied rating, the user-supplied rating corresponding to one of a plurality of predefined categories of preferences; and

a portable media player comprising a processor and a memory device, said processor operatively connected to said user-manipulable control for receiving the signal from said user-manipulable control and for associating the user-supplied rating with the currently played media content, and said memory device including a dynamically updateable ratings list for storing a list of user-supplied ratings associated with media content, said memory device operatively connected to said processor for storing the user-supplied rating associated with the currently played media content in the ratings list, wherein said processor is further operable for ranking the media content in response to the user-supplied ratings in the ratings list and selectively downloading and playing media content based on the user-supplied ratings in the ratings list.

6.   (Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the user-manipulable control is attachable to a portion of a headphone.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Fig. 1 of the drawings in accordance with the attached Letter with Proposed Drawing Changes.